GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1907
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
BAN ON POACHING OF GIGANTIC DOLPHINS
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any drive to conserve endangered gigantic dolphins or shukshuks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of gigantic dolphins cited so far;

(c) whether the Government plans to declare it a protective specie and impose complete ban on their poaching;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the other measures likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) For conservation of Dolphins following steps have been taken -• River Dolphin is included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby getting the highest protection. • Export-Import Policy of Government of India puts total ban on the export of all species of wild animals and their products.• The trade of dolphin is regulated by the provisions of Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of flora and fauna (CITES) to which India is a signatory.• States Governments have notified important habitats of dolphin as National Parks and Sanctuaries. The information about census and citings of Dolphins are maintained at the level of concerned State Governments.

(c) & (d) The Dolphins are already included in the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving them the highest degree of protection. There is a complete ban on their killing.

(e) The responsibility of protection and management of wildlife and their habitats lies with the State Governments. The Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to the States for conservation of Dolphins in the areas notified as protected areas.